

Fire Marshal History

The history of the State Fire Marshal's Office has evolved from the creation in 1937 as the Division of State Fire Prevention, to combat fraudulent insurance claims. On July 1, 1972, the division was transferred to the newly created Department of Public Safety. The following year the bureau's name was changed to the Office of State Fire Marshal. The following have served in the role of State Fire Marshal:

Director Joseph A.P. Flynn 1939 to 1965
Director and Fire Marshal Charles F. Rogan 1965 to 1975
Fire Marshal Don Bissett 1977 to 1991
Fire Marshal Dennis Lundstedt 1992 to 1995
Fire Marshal Ladd Alcott 1995 to 1998
Fire Marshal John C. Dean 1998 to present

Maine Fire Deaths

Since 1950, the Office of State Fire Marshal has kept detailed records of fire deaths in the state. The 1990s was the safest decade, thanks to the prominent use of smoke detectors, improved building codes and increased fire prevention programs by local fire departments.

1950 to 1959 – 484 deaths
1960 to 1969 – 493 deaths
1970 to 1979 – 498 deaths
1980 to 1989 – 324 deaths
1990 to 1999 – 200 deaths

2000 - 17 deaths
2001 - 18 deaths
2002 - 16 deaths
2003 - 20 deaths
2004 - 18 deaths
2005 - 23 deaths
2006 - 15 deaths

Maine's Deadliest Fires Since 1945:

1/31/45	Auburn, 17 killed, one nurse and 16 infants at Le Coste Baby Home
1947	Forest fires, 15 killed and over 200,000 acres burned. Damage over \$30 million dollars
3/2/50	Monson, eight killed, 2 adults and 6 children
3/27/60	Winthrop, six killed, a mother and 5 children
12/15/63	Portland, six killed, 6 children
7/4/67	Oxford, eight killed, 3 adults and 5 children
9/20/84	Hartland, five killed, 1 adult and 4 children

Fires Since 1990 With Three or More Deaths

10/26/90	Corinna, four dead, 1 adult and 3 children
6/7/90	Milo, three dead
2/18/91	Topsham, three dead, 3 adults
12/3/92	Portland, four dead, 3 adults and 1 child
1/23/92	Kittery, three dead, 3 adults
2/3/93	Augusta, three dead, 1 adult and 2 children
6/19/93	New Sweden, three dead, 1 adult and 2 children
9/5/94	Kittery, three dead, 1 adult and 2 children
4/23/97	Lewiston, three dead, 1 adult and 2 children
5/31/98	Madison, three dead, 1 adult and 2 children
1/11/99	Surry, three dead, 3 adults
1/13/00	Unity, four dead, 3 children and Unity Fire Chief collapses and dies at fire scene